Filing of I.T. Returns

1778. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether permanent account number for the income-tax payers all over the country have been allotted;

(b) if so, what is the number of such PAN holders;

(c) whether the number of returns filed during the assessment year 1998-99 are broadly equal to such PAN holders; and

(d) if not, what is the difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) under new series for the Income-Tax Payers is in progress all over the country. The status of allotment of PAN all over the country, as on 18-11-1998, is as under:—

(i) Number of assessees on registers as on 31-3-98	1,48,46,934
(ii) Number of returns filed during F.Y. 1997-98	1,14,48,695
(iii) Number of filled in form 49A received	1,46,32,097
(iv) Number of PAN allotted as on 18-11-98	30,86,289

(c) and (d) The number of returns filed during the assessment year 1997-98 was 1,14,48,695.

As against this, a total of 1,46,32,097 applications in Form No. 49A have been received so far for allotment of PAN.

World Bank and IMF loan for Infrastructure projects

1779. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to approach the World Bank and IMF for loan for recently announced infrastructure projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) IMF loans are for Balance of Payments support and are not given for Development projects, while the World Bank loans are given for Development projects. Finalisation of projects with World Bank assistance is an on-going process and at any given time there are some projects in the pipeline. At present there are a number of pipeline projects in Infrastructure Sector like T.N. State Highway, Rajasthan State Highway, Orissa State Highway, TN Urban Development Fund, Mumbai Urban Development Project, IIIrd Madras Water Supply, Hyderabad Water Supply and Sanitation-II, AP Power APL-I, Haryana Power APL-II, National Highway III project, which are at varying stages of consideration by the World Bank.

Committee on Delay of Cases by CEGAT

1780. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of recommendations made by the Committee appointed by Government to identify the causes of inordinate delay in the disposal of cases by the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Tribunal; and

(b) what are the details of such recommendations implemented by Government and with what results?